

We worked well with the two managers of the bill. This deals with concurrent receipts. This amendment is offered on my behalf and that of Senator DORGAN. I understand, with the strict rules we are working under this year, that this amendment may not be relevant according to the rule now before the Senate.

I ask the Chair to rule on whether or not this amendment is relevant.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In the opinion of the Chair, the amendment is not relevant.

Mr. REID. I accept the ruling of the Chair. I am disappointed. This is a very important issue. As I say, Senator DORGAN and I feel very strongly about this, and the two managers of the bill have been most generous in their work in conference. In the past, we have gotten nothing in the House; everything we have done has been in the Senate.

I will look for another vehicle to move this forward in the future.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the distinguished leader. For many years now the Senator has taken strong leadership on this issue. At some point in time, the Senate and Congress as a whole will have to face this issue. I recognize that this is not a relevant amendment pursuant to the consent agreement and we cannot proceed.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, let me add my thanks to the Senator from Nevada for two things: First, for his faithful commitment to this issue. Currently, we see it as an issue of the Senator from Nevada and the Senator from North Dakota and a number of other Senators who have joined to try to bring equity in this area. We made at least some progress; it is because of their energy we have made the progress we have.

Second, I thank him for his acceptance of the ruling of the Chair. It is very important he does that because all Members need to accept the rulings of the Chair in the absence, it seems to me, of some overwhelming unusual precedent that would allow us to try to overrule the Chair. The whip's, the Democratic whip's approach is one which I think reflects the best traditions and the best instincts of this body. I thank him.

It also helped Senator WARNER and I to complete this bill within the parameters of the unanimous consent agreement.

Mr. REID. I ask my amendment be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 697) was withdrawn.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONTROLLING FEDERAL SPENDING

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the FY2004 budget resolution adopted last month includes a provision to uncover waste, fraud and abuse in Federal Government spending. Today marks the beginning of a transparent and deliberative process that will be undertaken by Committees in the House and Senate to control Federal spending.

Specifically, the budget resolution requires the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget in both the House and Senate to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD specified levels of savings for each authorizing committee. Chairman NUSSLE and I have developed a joint set of targets that requests each authorizing committee to report back with recommended savings proposals amounting to 1 percent of the committee's total mandatory spending. I will work with Senate committees to ensure that the savings target meaningfully represents the opportunities to find improvements in the programs under each committee's jurisdiction.

Pursuant to section 301(b) of H. Con. Res. 95, I submit the following specified levels of savings for Senate Committees. Given these savings targets, the budget resolution further requires committees to submit, by September 2, 2003, to the Budget Committee their findings that identify changes in law within their jurisdiction that would produce the specified savings. The reports submitted by committees will guide us in the preparation of future budget resolutions and will help us all improve program oversight.

It is my hope that the committees will enthusiastically join Chairman NUSSLE and me in this effort to root out waste, fraud and abuse. As trustees of taxpayer dollars, Members of Congress must insist that limited resources not be squandered. Federal spending has been growing at unsustainable levels. Congress cannot become lax in its duty to perform the necessary oversight on Federal spending.

Often we find that Federal programs—ignored over time—become susceptible to waste, fraud or abuse. For example, according to a General Accounting Office report released in January of this year, Medicaid has been added for the first time to the GAO's high-risk list, "owing to the program's size, growth, diversity, and fiscal management weaknesses."

Limited oversight has afforded States and health care providers the opportunity to increase Federal funding inappropriately. States are able to take advantage of funding schemes which supplant State Medicaid dollars with Federal Medicaid dollars by overpaying State-owned facilities and requiring the local government to transfer the excess back to the State. These dollars are then siphoned away from Medicaid patients and often are used for other purposes. Without proper oversight this and other program abuses can persist for years.

Other recent examples of abuse include a finding by the Inspector General of the Department of Education that nearly 23 percent of student loan recipients whose loans were discharged due to disability claims were gainfully employed. Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget has estimated that more than \$8 billion in erroneous earned income tax payments are made each year. These situations are unacceptable. The work that the Senate and House will undertake will result in reforms in these and other instances of misspent Federal resources.

Chairman NUSSLE and I have put in place a project specifically designed to draw upon the knowledge and experience of Senate experts in these programs. The savings resulting from this effort will not be arbitrary; they will be developed through sound and thoughtful considerations by those who know the programs best. I look forward to working with all the committee chairmen who will be reporting their findings and am committed to making this a success.

I ask unanimous consent that the above-mentioned spending levels be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### SAVINGS FROM 1 PERCENTAGE POINT REDUCTION IN MANDATORY SPENDING BY AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE [By fiscal year in billions of dollars]

Senate:		2004	2004-08	2004-13
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry .....	BA	-0.603	-3.162	-6.568
	OT	-0.563	-2.982	-6.251
Armed Services .....	BA	-0.778	-4.201	-9.178
	OT	-0.777	-4.195	-9.165
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .....	BA	-0.139	-0.719	-1.436
	OT	-0.017	-0.058	-0.092
Commerce, Science, and Transportation .....	BA	-0.117	-0.601	-1.244
	OT	-0.074	-0.382	-0.807
Energy and Natural Resources .....	BA	-0.027	-0.118	-0.218
	OT	-0.024	-0.108	-0.201
Environment and Public Works .....	BA	-0.264	-1.493	-3.018
	OT	-0.023	-0.106	-0.195
Finance .....	BA	-7.340	-41.323	-98.601
	OT	-7.379	-41.407	-98.735
Foreign Relations .....	BA	-0.100	-0.599	-1.289
	OT	-0.119	-0.563	-1.181
Governmental Affairs ....	BA	-0.831	-4.518	-10.042
	OT	-0.816	-4.446	-9.904
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions .....	BA	-0.080	-0.471	-1.016
	OT	-0.072	-0.433	-0.944
Judiciary .....	BA	-0.085	-0.324	-0.621
	OT	-0.079	-0.326	-0.618
Veterans' Affairs .....	BA	-0.342	-1.833	-3.864
	OT	-0.341	-1.827	-3.852
Total .....	BA	-10.706	-59.362	-137.095
	OT	-10.284	-56.833	-131.945

Note.—Section 301(d) of H. Con. Res. 95 does not include Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Committee on Indian Affairs, and the Committee on Small Business.

#### UNFAIR RESTRICTIONS ON LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, many of us are increasingly concerned about the unfair restrictions on non-profit legal services providers under current Federal law who receive both Federal funds and private funds.

In 1996, Congress severely weakened the ability of many legal service providers to represent needy clients.